

some years ago, the California Medical Association appropriated funds in little less than lavish fashion. For instance, to revive an unhappy memory, the so-called "California Medical Economic Survey."

On the ground-work of studies and discussions, the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association brought into being, in December, 1938, an organization it then sponsored under the name of "California Physicians' Service."

The newly-organized activity was incorporated on February 2, 1939, and promptly arranged to take up its work.

At that time two hospitalization groups were also in operation, one with headquarters in Sacramento and the other in Oakland. These were followed by a third, with a major office in Los Angeles. These three hospitalization groups are now operating under the sanction of the national "Blue Cross" hospitalization organization.

For some time, however, it has become more and more evident that the objectives of California Physicians' Service, the Hospital Service of California, the Hospital Service of Southern California, and Intercoast Hospitalization Insurance Association might be greatly promoted if medical and hospitalization services could be brought into better coordination.

The annual report of the C.M.A. Council, to be found on page 158 in the April issue of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, refers to the Liaison Committee composed of representatives of these four organizations. To render possible some of the betterments under contemplation, it has been necessary for California Physicians' Service to make extensive changes in its corporate set-up. These matters received serious consideration at the meeting of the House of Delegates; and in due course, reports of actions taken will be given in the *OFFICIAL JOURNAL*. With C.P.S. now on a \$2.25 unit payment basis, indications point to even greater progress, if ways and means can be devised through which the four organizations each acting one with the other, will be able to attain maximum efficiency in service and results.

"UNITED PUBLIC HEALTH LEAGUE": BORN OF A QUARTER CENTURY OF CALIFORNIA EXPERIENCE

The League Has Opened a Washington Office.—If there are any members of the California Medical Association to whom the name "United Public Health League" is something new, they should orient themselves thereon, by scanning the items dealing with this newly-formed organization of six of the Western state medical associations, as printed in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* (March, pages 103 and 109; and April, page 170).

It is not necessary to explain to California physicians the advantages of a public health league composed of members of the profession of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and allied

groups. The record of achievement by the Public Health League of California, in activities designed to maintain the highest quality and distribution of medical service, and to prevent the passage of laws that could have a detrimental influence on the best interests of the public health, has been one in which California physicians may take pardonable pride. Physicians, who believe in the value of coöperative effort for the attainment of legitimate objectives aiming to safeguard the health interests of citizens, have been and are in full accord with public health leagues.

The organization of the "United Public Health League" has been followed by the prompt establishment of an office in Washington, D. C.

In this current issue of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, excerpts from the Washington Letter of Mr. Ben H. Read, of California, who represents the League in Washington, appear on page 257. The introductory paragraph of Mr. Read's Washington Letter explains, in part, why the Washington Office was created:

"Pursuant to instructions from the Board of Directors, an office of the United Public Health League was opened in Washington, D. C., on March 14, 1944. The purpose of this office is to act as a two-way Information Bureau, serving national legislators from the States making up the membership of the League and, in turn, relaying information from Washington to members of the medical profession in those States."

As has been stated in articles referred to above, the United Public Health League aims to work in full harmony with all other national, regional and local agencies having, as their purpose, the promotion of the best interests of both the public health and the medical profession. Hence, the Washington Letter mentioned, and which is given in part in the current number, is worthy of perusal.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD C. NAFFZIGER, M. D.

The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease for May, 1944 (Vol. 99, No. 5) was issued as a special number, dedicated to Howard C. Naffziger, M. D., Professor of Surgery, University of California Medical School, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday, May 6.

The Surgeon General of the U. S. Army, Major General Norman T. Kirk, in his salutation stated of the physician so honored:

"His active participation in medical education and his wide experience and intensive interests in the field of Neurosurgery have permitted him, as Chairman of the Subcommittee for Neurologic Surgery of the National Research Council, to direct with special proficiency the assiduous activities and productive contributions of this organization."

From the greeting of Robert G. Sproul, President, University of California, may also be gleaned the following:

"Not only is Dr. Naffziger himself, together with two of his associates, constantly engaged in significant research in surgery of the brain, but much experimental

surgery is being carried on by members of the Division with his encouragement and advice. Thus, as stimulating teacher and brilliant research leader, Dr. Naffziger has developed, in the Division of Surgery in the University of California Medical School, one of the finest surgical departments in the country; and as executive administrator, combining vision with sound judgment, he has been influential in formulating the policies of the Medical School and the University. Of both, he is an ornament and a source of strength."

Other tributes by Francis Scott Symth, Dean of the University of California Medical School, and Dr. Foster Kennedy, New York, are equally gracious and commendatory. The scope of the dedicatory issue, covering 431 pages, may be appreciated by scanning the list of contributors and their topics of discussion. Members of the medical profession in California take pleasure, therefore, in joining with colleagues who are associated with the University of California Medical School, in extending felicitations to Doctor Howard C. Naffziger.

The list of contributors to the dedication number of *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, an educational journal of neuro-psychiatry, by-the-way founded in 1874, follows:

- Salutation. *By N. T. Kirk, Major General, U. S. Army*
 Salutation. *By Robert G. Sproul, President, University of California*
 Salutation. *By F. S. Smyth, M.D., Dean, University of California Medical School*
 Dr. Howard Naffziger. *By Foster Kennedy, M.D.*
 Early Days of Neurosurgery in America. *By Bernard Sachs, M.D.*
 Reconstructive Orthopaedic Surgery for Disabilities Resulting from Irreparable Injuries to the Radial Nerve. *By LeRoy C. Abbott, M.D.*
 The Neurologic Complications of Hemophilia. *By P. M. Aggeler, M.D., and S. P. Lucia, M.D.*
 The Effect of Desoxycorticosterone in Epilepsy. *By Robert B. Aird, M.D.*
 Cushing's Disease. *By Evelyn Anderson, M.D., Ph.D., and Webb Haymaker, Captain, M.C.*
 The Effects of Iodized Poppyseed Oil and Iodine-Chlorine in Peanut Oil in the Subarachnoid Space of Animals. *By Edwin Boldrey, M.D., and Robert B. Aird, M.D.*
 Progressive Lenticular Degeneration. *By Olga Bridgman, M.D., and Francis S. Smyth, M.D.*
 Referred Head Pain and Its Concomitants. *By Douglas G. Campbell, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Lond.), and Clare M. Parsons, M.S.*
 Cystic Hydrops of the Pineal Gland. *By Jesse L. Carr, M.D.*
 The Epileptic Driver. *By W. E. Carter, M.D.*
 Papilledema (Choked Disk) and Papillitis (Optic Neuritis); Their Differential Diagnosis. *By Frederick C. Cordes, M.D., and Samuel D. Aiken, M.D.*
 Anorexia Nervosa or Simmonds' Disease? *By Roberto F. Escamilla, Major, Medical Corps, U. S. Army*
 Some Neuropsychological Aspects of the Menstrual Cycle and Its Disturbances. *By Paul G. Fuerstner, M.D.*
 Psychiatry and Public Health. *By J. C. Geiger, M.D.*
 Sighing and Other Forms of Hyperventilation Simulating Organic Disease. *By Paul A. Gliebe, M.D., and Alfred Auerbach, M.D.*
 A Perineurial Fibroblastoma Arising in the Cervical Sympathetic Chain. *By Donald Hall, M.D., and H. Glenn Bell, M.D.*
 Wartime Ocular Neuroses. *By David O. Harrington, Lieutenant Commander (MC) U.S.N.R.*
 Neuropathological Studies in Vitamin E Deficient Rats: A Preliminary Report. *By Richard W. Harvey, M.D., and James H. Perryman, A.B.*
 The Immediate Care of the Unconscious Patient. *By Hubert R. Hathaway, M.D.*
 Euthanasia. *By Frank Hinman, M.D.*
 Hemangioblastoma of the Medulla—Lindau's Disease. *By Mervyn H. Hirschfeld, M.D.*
 Referred Pain From Skeletal Structures. *By Verne T. Inman, M.D., Ph.D., and John B. deC. M. Saunders, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.*
 The Treatment of Post-Traumatic Head Pain. *By O. W. Jones, Jr., M.D., and Howard A. Brown, M.D.*

- The Psychological Structure of the Obsessive Neuroses. *By J. S. Kasanin, M.D.*
 Explorations by an Internist in the Field of Neuropsychiatry. *By Wm. J. Kerr, M.D.*
 Aviation Medical Problems, with Special Reference to Altitude Pain. *By J. H. Lawrence, M.D.*
 Leo Newmark. *By Milton B. Lennon, A.M., M.D.*
 Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Due to Intracranial Rheumatic Aneurysm. *By Stuart Lindsay, M.D.*
 Hypophysectomy in Cushing's Disease. *By H. Lissner, M.D.*
 The Central Nervous System and Hematopoiesis. *By S. P. Lucia, M.D., and H. F. Marasse, M.D.*
 Repair of Peripheral Injuries of the Facial Nerve. *By R. C. Martin, M.D.*
 Central Nervous System Complications Arising From Diseases of the Blood Forming Tissues. *By Stacy R. Mettier, M.D.*
 Critical Analysis of the Blood Brain Barrier. *By K. F. Meyer, Ph.D., M.D.*
 Porencephaly. *By Earl R. Miller, M.D.*
 Optic Neuritis and the Ethmoid Sinuses. *By Lewis Francis Morrison, A.B., M.A., M.D.*
 The Role of the Autonomic Nervous System in Accommodation for Far and Near Vision. *By J. M. D. Olmsted.*
 Some Observations on Induction Center and Training Station Psychiatry. *By Lt. Comdr. P. P. Poliak, MC-V (S) U.S.N.R.*
 The Beginnings of Modern Thinking About Neurology. *By Langley Porter, B.S., M.D., M.R.C.S.*
 Salt Metabolism in Poliomyelitis. *By James F. Rinehart, M.D.*
 Clinical Allergy in the Nervous System. *By Albert H. Rowe, M.D.*
 Glucose, Insulin, and Adrenalin Tolerance Tests in Head Injuries. *By Jurgen Ruesch, M.D., and Karl M. Bowman, M.D.*
 Some Neurological Aspects of the Role Played by the Inorganic Elements. *By Carl L. A. Schmidt, M.S., Ph.D.*
 Acromegaly and Diabetes Mellitus. *By H. C. Shepardson, M.D.*
 Exophthalmos Secondary to Edema and Degenerative Changes in Orbital Tissues. *By Mayo H. Soley, M.D.*
 Brachialgia Statica Paresthetica. *By Robert Wartenberg, M.D.*

EDITORIAL COMMENT†

SULFONAMIDE ALLERGY

The frequent occurrence of toxic reactions in patients treated with sulfonamides suggest the possibility that sulfonamides may function as specific antigens in the human body. Earlier attempts to establish the allergic nature of such toxicities, however, led to inconclusive results. While, in a few instances,¹ hypersensitive patients have shown positive skin reactions to homologous sulfonamides, the majority of the earlier reported patch, scratch and intradermal tests were negative. Furthermore, patients who had shown various toxic manifestations did not yield demonstrable precipitins, and passive transfer of their serums did not lead to skin sensitivity in normal persons. When sulfonamides were diazotized and tested in the form of azoprotein conjugates, similar negative results were recorded.²

Since none of these negative tests have definitely ruled out the possibility that the toxic symptoms are allergic, a study of the antigenicity of sulfonamides for laboratory animals was attempted by Wedum³ of the University of Cincinnati. Sulfonamide azoproteins were prepared by the Landsteiner technique,⁴ using human

† This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comments by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California Medical Association to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.